The remarkable architecture and planning of Phnom Penh make it unique amongst South East Asian cities.

Founded in the 14th century, Phnom Penh became the capital of Cambodia in 1422 and again in 1866.

A French protectorate from 1864, Cambodia gained its independence in 1953. Between the mid 1950s and the mid 1970s Cambodia sought new ways to express itself as a modern, progressive nation. In architecture a distinct 'movement' developed, now by some refered to as 'New Khmer' architecture. Architects experimented with ideas and forms, often innovative and dynamic; they adapted international idioms and combined these with Cambodian references, while responding to local climate and custom.

The results were wholly Cambodian and unique in the development of modern architecture.

The buildings included on the maps

While KAT's main interest is in the architecture of the 50s and 60s, these maps are about understanding and appreciating the city as a whole and include buildings from various periods.

We have not tried to be historically comprehensive or balanced, but aim to offer interesting walks through central Phnom Penh, noting the special qualities of some of the ordinary buildings and streets, as well as identifying some important landmarks.

Information on the important pagodas (wats) and well-known historic buildings (Royal Palace, etc) can be found in easily-available guide books and, due to limited space, are generally not included here.

Further information

The Municipality of Phnom Penh has compiled an inventory of historic buildings (www.phnompenh.gov.kh).
The Ministry of Tourism lists some details of some buildings on its web site (www.mot.gov.kh).
HeritageWatch, a local NGO, is developing a public-awareness project for buildings of interest (www.heritagewatch.org).
UNESCO promotes the preservation of urban heritage.
And see our website for a short bibliography (www.ka-tours.org).

Feedback

Please let us know if we have made any errors . Also change is happening fast and the chances are that this map is already out of date! Email: contact@ka-tours.org

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to: Tobias Olsson (extensive on-the-street foot-slogging research and route planning; without him there would be no maps) and Keat Toby (data on Colonial buildings from the Municipality's inventory)

Published by Khmer Architecture Tours© These maps are copyright. They are free to copy for **personal** use, but reproduction for commercial purposes is **not** permitted.

Edition 2 (DRAFT for review and comment) April 06.

1 Villa
1900-1910 Fine, though decaying, example. Said to be the home of a previous Prime Minister.

2 Old Royal Villa
1900-1910 One of the few remaining Royal Villas around the Palace; now used as offices.

3 National Museum
Architect: **Georges Croslier**
1917-1920 A highly regarded reworking of the traditional Khmer pagoda form to suit a new 20thC function.

4 Public toilet
1959 One of a pair; modern structure; French manners.

5 Apartment building
1940's Moderne style block, partly restored in the 1990's; stairs off the street lead to a rear passage (ie not the common 'shop-house' type).

6 Japanese de-constructivism
A peace gift fom the people of Horoshima; engineering students come and build more of this crazy, unfinished structure in Wat Onnalum.

7 Apartment buildings
1960's Nos 41-55; fine example of in-tact 4 storey block, built by 4 developers to a consistent style; subtle!

8 Apartment buildings
Nos 28-48; similar to above, together forming a model urban street setting.

9 Corner block
With well considered details from 40's, 50's and 60's. Note the concrete roof pergola and the vertically louvred stairs.

10 Street 19
A lively variety of residential types from different periods; from a 1960's 5-storey block to 2-storey Colonial; including the Popil photo gallery.

11 Moderne apartments
1960's Notable details; block forms a strong corner; cafe below.

12 Capitol Cinema
Architect: *Vann Molyvann*
1964 No longer a cinema, the splendid exterior is fairly original; inaugurated by showing Vadim's 'And God Created Woman' (1957) in the presence of the architect.

13 Prom Bayon Cinema
1960's A cinema integrated into an apartment block.

14 Apartments
1900-1910 Decayed but intact example of what used to be a series of 2-storey apartment buildings on this street.

15 Deco apartments
1935-45 Bold design, probably part of the Cinema Lux development originally.

16 Cinema Lux
1935-45 Still in use as a cinema; the facade has been almost totally altered.

17 No 50, Norodom Blvd
Use of framed 'brise-soleil' shading and free-form roof pavillion.

18 Ministry of Water Resources
1915-1925 What was once a Colonial villa with massive entrance steps; enthusiasticaly renovated.

19 Villa
1915-1925 A small and elegant Colonial residence.

20 Forestry administration
1960s Balcony-access offices, similar in style to Leroy and Mondet's *Royal University of Phnom Penh*. Note the three-storey *bas-relief* panel.

21 Offices
1980's? Example of trying to adopt a 60's style, but too heavy in its detail and closed-in on the street.

22 Offices
1960's Imposing curved corner entrance; with distinctive square panels and a perforated wall.

23 Single storey houses
19th C? The roofs, including ventilation chimneys, are still visible above the shops.

24 Apartment block
1960's Unusual use of a whole urban block to create apartments with an internal courtyard – which may originally have been a garden and is now mostly built-over. Main entrance on St 154 with notable ceiling design.

25 Blue glass and pink paint
2004? An indication of how vulgar architecture in Phnom Penh could become!

26 Police offices
Architect: *Vann Molyvann*
1959 Extraordinary building with full height 'brise soleil' sun shading; reported to be one of Vann Molyvann's first buildings in Phnom Penh. Still in use, though the site is likely to be redeveloped.

27 Phnom Penh police office
Architect: *J Desbois*
1930-35 Fine 'moderne' example with a curved corner, horizontal lines and zigzag air vents.

28 Apartment buildings
Walking up street 53, various styles can be seen. Modern from the 1960's (first one on the right side), moderne (opposite, and several others) and an older French one at the end of the street, probably the oldest building surrounding the market.

29 Central Market
Architect: *Chauchon*
1938 Innovative, monumental Art-Deco structure marking the centre of Phnom Penh. Ventilation was a key factor; the four arms stand on columns without walls, but now are closed in. Restoration is planned.

30 Corner cafe
1960s Charming corner block with fine windows and old signs; note roof-top pergola in concrete, typical of the period.

31 Intersection in *Style Moderne*
1935-45 Four houses in the same style though altered. On axis with the central market.

32 Peugout Garage
1935-45 Once Peugout occupied the whole building; today there is only a small shop in the back.

33 Customs office
1920's Building with Art-Nouveau influences; details unusual in Phnom Penh.

34 Old administrative building
1890's Unusual colonial style with an interesting roof. Looking for a new use

35 Villa
Now a goverment office, the fine facades originally had an external corridor, for shade.

36 Offices
1960's ? Interesting facade on what used to be a white building. A similar building can be seen at the intersection north from this one. The intersection south (136/19) offers two modern (almost identical) apartment buildings.

37 Apartment building
1940's? Unlike any other French building in Phnom Penh, this one bears a resemblance to Mediteranean French architecture.

38 Hemakcheat Cinema
1950's? This large cinema, in brutalist/modern style, is today a home to many people who live in desparate conditions. The apartment building attached is interesting.

39 Intersection
1900-1980 All buildings on the intersection have different styles. The very well kept and interesting French building is from 1900-1910. The opposite French building in style moderne dates back to 1935-45 and the more modern building is from the early 1980's.

40 Intersection
This intersection is constituted by an old French house, slowly swallowed by new development and three examples of apartment buildings from the 1940's and 1960's.

41 No 86
1940s? Four-storey narrow shop-house; curved balconies and fine ironwork (building on the right is interesting too).

42 Blue glass facade
Recent What can one say...?

43 Old Hotel International
1900-1910 Altered many times and no longer a hotel, although the old signs are still readable.

44 Apartment building
1918 This decayed but very beautiful building has a unique style for Phnom Penh. Presently under partial restoration

45 Apartment building
1910's Originally for 'Bureau Dumarest D'Indochine'.